

Division of Behavioral Health Services

Bureau of Compliance

150 North 18th Avenue, Suite 260
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 364-4558
(602) 364-4762 FAX
Internet: www.azdhs.gov

JANET NAPOLITANO, GOVERNOR
SUSAN GERARD, DIRECTOR

TO: RBHA CEOs, TRBHA Directors, Medical Directors and Clinical Leadership

FROM: Margaret Russell
Bureau Chief of Policy

SUBJECT: POLICY CLARIFICATION: Youth Sex Offender Treatment

DATE: October 9, 2007

This memorandum is intended to clarify the responsibilities of the Tribal and Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (T/RBHAs) and their providers in meeting the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS) expectations and state law regarding the treatment of youth sex offenders.

The recently enacted SB 1628, codified as [A.R.S. § 8-350.01](#) states that if the court, adult or juvenile probation department places a sex offender in a sex offender treatment program, the treatment provider shall place the offender in a treatment program with similar offenders of similar age and developmental maturity level, if group treatment is prescribed by the treatment provider. A.R.S. § 8-350.01(B)(1) also states that all providers treating youth sex offenders shall comply with the professional Code of Ethics from the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (<http://www.atsa.com>).